



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

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Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

14 January 2021

Dear parents and carers

RE: Remote Learning Update

Following my letter on the 4th January I would like to thank all parents for their support, patience, and feedback regarding our Remote Learning provision this last week. When I first wrote to you, we were yet to be informed of the full lockdown and have been pleased with how well staff and students adapted to the swift change. Everyone at Fitzharrys has been working tirelessly to deliver live and recorded lessons to ensure that all students continue to receive high quality learning and support. With the introduction of Live lessons and tutor times, and our increasing use of Teams we have seen fantastic engagement, learning and resilience from Fitzharrys students.

We continue to develop our provision and I am writing to inform you of the updates and key information as we move through the term.

1. Live Lessons

We will continue to run Live Lessons at least every 1 in 3. We are now able to use the Microsoft Teams 'Meeting' function for lessons which allows students to engage more actively through camera and audio, and through use of the chat function. With 'Meetings' students are also able to interact with the teacher and other students, participate in group activities and complete independent work. When a Live Lesson is planned it will take place at the usual time of the lesson, a link, and details for which will appear on each student's *epraise* dashboard. If your child is unable to attend the live lesson time, they can access a recording of the event by clicking the link on *epraise* at any time.

2. Non-live lessons

All non-live lessons will contain recorded teacher instructions and resources. These will also be set on *epraise*. The benefit of the non-live lessons lies in their flexibility, able to fit around the student's home life. However, we do encourage students to complete all lessons as per their usual school timings to allow for adequate breaks.

3. Marking and feedback

Over the course of lock down we are also seeking to create a consistent and supportive approach to the submission of students' work for assessment, marking and feedback purposes. We believe it is vital that students continue to receive praise and constructive feedback for the remote learning. Therefore, we are adopting the following methods to ensure this:

- All students will receive a fortnightly '**Knowledge**' or '**Retrieval Quiz**' to assess their understanding of new content and revisit prior learning. This will take the form of an online form or quiz set by the teacher and students will receive instant feedback on how they did. This will allow teachers and students to review learning throughout the term.

- Students will also submit key pieces of work for all subjects using Microsoft Teams, to which they will receive **personalised feedback**. Each subject will explain what work will be marked and how it should be submitted during their Live Lessons. Teachers will build towards tasks in the lessons before, and the tasks themselves will be of greater depth to allow for quality feedback. The frequency for this is as follows, to allow for quality feedback but sensitivity to student and staff workload:

Subject	KS3	KS4
English/Maths/Science	1 per fortnight	At least 1 per fortnight
Humanities/Languages	2 per term (up to Feb half term)	At least 1 per fortnight
All other subjects	1 per term (up to Feb half term)	At least 1 per fortnight

Both quizzes and marked tasks will be set as either classwork or homework. In the event of lockdown continuing after half term we will review and update you regarding any changes to the structure and frequency of assessment.

We feel this this current structure will offer students support, feedback and challenge whilst also being mindful of the complexity of remote learning and online submission.

4. Homework

Key Stage Three (Years 7-9)

Students will receive homework, as per the usual expectations, from Monday 18th January. We hope that by this time students will have established an understanding of the new Remote Learning procedures and able to complete homework tasks, which will include their Retrieval quizzes (outlined in point three of the letter).

Key Stage Four (Years 10-11)

Homework will continue to be set in line with usual expectations.

If you have concerns about your child's ability to complete homework tasks please raise with the tutor, Head of Year or Student Wellbeing Manager.

5. Monitoring attendance

We will continue to monitor attendance to Tutor Time and Live Lessons through the completion of registers, information for which will continue to be available on *My Child at School*. We ask that parents contact the school in the usual way in the event of any planned or unplanned absence from remote learning. Students will also receive tutor phone calls regarding any noted absence or lack of engagement with remote learning.

Attendance to remote learning is vital for all students to ensure learning continues, even in these challenging times.



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6. Support

Support materials for accessing Remote Learning, including videos and instruction guides, are available to all students at the Remote Learning page of the school website: [Remote Learning \(fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk\)](https://www.fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk)

If your child encounters any problems with accessing the online resources, or if you do not have computer or internet access at home please contact the office at office.4127@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk

If your child requires support relating to wellbeing, please contact your child's form tutor, Head of Year or Student Wellbeing Manager. They will be able to provide pastoral support and/or recommend further support or guidance materials/resources.

7. Behaving online

With the introduction of Live Lessons and the use of chat functions it is important that students behave sensibly and interact appropriately online. All lessons are recorded and all comments visible to staff and students. So far, we have been very impressed with the maturity and positivity shown by Fitzharrys students. However, if a student misuses any of the live lesson features, we will contact home and restrict access to live and chat options for the students involved.

We hope that this update gives you all the information you will need for now, but if you do have any further questions please do get in touch using the following email address: office.4127@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk

Finally, I would like to thank you once again for your continued support and feedback. We are very proud of the students' hard work and positivity during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,



Alicia Corley
Deputy Head of School



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